

REMARKS

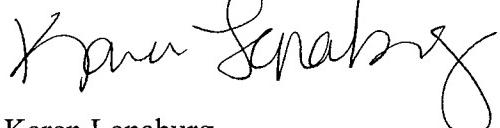
Claims 1-10 and 28 are pending. By this amendment, claims 1-10 have been canceled and claims 29-44 have been added. In the Office Action dated November 15, 2007, claims 1, 4, 7 and 28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 5,282,900 to McDonnell et al. (“McDonnell”). Claims 1-3, 8-9, and 28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0220212 to DeVitis (“DeVitis”). Claims 1, 8-9, and 28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 5,221,506 to Dulin et al. (“Dulin”). Claims 1, 9 and 28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0110653 to Brown (“Brown”). Claims 1, 9-10, and 28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 4,277,358 to Hopkins (“Hopkins”). Claims 2-7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brown in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,451,758 to McClain (“McClain”).

Although applicants do not agree with the Examiner’s rejections based on the cited references, applicants are canceling claims 1-10 and 28 and drafting new claims 29-44 to pursue alternative embodiments of the invention described in the specification. Applicants, therefore, reserve the right to include any of the canceled claims in any continuation, divisional or continuation-in-part application. Support for the subject matter of claims 29-44 can be found in the specification, including the figures and originally filed claims. The new claims 29-44 are allowable over the cited references.

Therefore, all of the claims in the application are clearly allowable. Favorable consideration and a timely Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosures:

Postcard

Fee Transmittal Sheet (+ copy)

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